Subject: Emberfest Update | Removal of seats VSI6 | West Sydney 4x4 venue
From: 4WD NSW and ACT INC <office@4wdnow.com.au>
Date: 14/04/2026 2:13 PM
To: <delegate.tam4wdclub@gmail.com>

Presidents Report

Well, isn't 2026 turning out to be a real handful! Interest rates, groceries, and home utilities are all rising, and now fuel prices are skyrocketing—if you can even find fuel for sale. Fuel economy isn't one of our strong suits when it comes to four-wheel driving adventures, so the pain at the pump hits even harder. I've been asked what I think about continuing with club outings and functions. I believe we face a double-edged moral dilemma: on one hand, use your vehicle as little as possible to save fuel and stay home; on the other, many small businesses rely on transit groups to survive, and there's the mental reset that comes from getting away from daily routines—COVID travel restrictions support this.

So, here are a few tips if you're still planning to travel: ensure your vehicle is serviced and up to date, run your tyres on the higher setting indicated on your tyre placard, travel during the cooler parts of the day where possible, accelerate gently—as if walking on a patch of Bindi weed—and consider choosing destinations closer to home. Ultimately, it's a matter of personal and financial choice.

The May quarterly meeting, Emberfest, has been moved to a Zoom only meeting on Sunday, the 17th of May. The decision wasn't made lightly, but due

to fuel supply uncertainties and the increased costs for club members attending, it was decided to postpone Emberfest until 2027 and hold a Zoom-only meeting. All tickets purchased will be refunded in due course.

The DTU has introduced a new registration process for members wanting to complete the 4WD basic competence course. As mentioned before, the DTU only handles the assessment part of the process. Club members need to gain the necessary skills to pass the competency through their club DAFs (Driver Awareness Facilitators). The DTU runs DAF skills instructional days for clubs that wish to upskill a member to become their club's DAF. The next skills day will be on the 4th of July in Wollongong. More details will be available in the upcoming newsletters. The DTU is also preparing a flowchart to help clubs understand the process.

One of the many benefits of being the President is the privilege of representing the 4WD association at major milestones. Being part of the Port Macquarie 4WD Club and NSW Suzuki 4WD Club 50th celebrations was inspiring, and I look forward to attending MacArthur 4WD Club's 40th and the Blue Mountains 50th in the coming months. These celebrations recognise the resilience and depth of clubs and the passion held within.

Cheers
Lee Dunstan
President

At this point in the calendar, we would normally be providing you with all the final details for Emberfest and encouraging you to grab your tickets for a

wonderful weekend. That said, we've had to make the choice to cancel this year's Emberfest.

As you would be aware, world events have put significant pressure on fuel supply and affordability. This means that not only is it far more expensive for members to drive to Mudgee and back, but it also puts pressure on local fuel supplies once we get there and fuel up to get home. We feel that it would put an unfair amount of pressure on the Mudgee community.

It is our intention that Emberfest 2027 will go ahead as normal, so put it in your calendars now – 14th, 15th and 16th May, 2027.
To reduce scheduling conflicts, we are going ahead with the quarterly meeting on Sunday 17th at 9am as planned. The only change to the meeting is that it will be ZOOM ONLY. Keep an eye out for more meeting info closer to the date.

Temporary Removal of seats from 4wd vehicles

Effective date July 1st 2026.

Transport for NSW

NSW GOVERNMENT

Vehicle Standards Information

VSI.06 | Rev. 4 | 1 July 2026 **06**

Light vehicle modifications

A guide to certification requirements under the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme

45	Fitting of, or alterations to, child restraint anchorage points or ISOFIX attachments other than those approved by TfNSW (Restraint Fitters Manual Guidelines to the correct installation and use of child restraints). **Example requiring certification:** • Fitting ISOFIX attachment points. • Fitting of an upper child restraint anchorage point not approved by TfNSW Restraint Fitters Manual. **Example not requiring certification:** • Fitting of an approved anchorage as per TfNSW Restraint Fitters Manual.

Seats and occupant protection (continued)	
Item	**Modification**
46	Removal of a seat which: • Changes the category of the vehicle, or • Involves installing storage or equipment that may compromise the occupant protection of adjacent seating positions, or • Interferes with the vehicle's Supplementary Restraint System (SRS). (For example, a warning light is illuminated), or • Involves the removal of any front row seat, or • Involves the removal or modification of seatbelts, buckles or child restraint anchorages unless integrated into the seat, or • Interferes with the vehicle's seat belt reminder system. (For example, a warning light is illuminated or audible warning), or • Performed in buses with more than 9 seating positions including the driver (Australian Design Rule category MD). **Example requiring certification:** • Removal of seats which turn a passenger vehicle (M-category) into a goods vehicle (N-category). **Example not requiring certification:** • Removal of seats which are designed to be removed by the vehicle manufacturer, such as quick release seats in the second or third row of a vehicle, while maintaining the required number of child restraint anchorages. Note: The ADR Category of a vehicle determines the minimum requirements for child restraint anchorages, including quantity, which the vehicle must continue to meet.

Read the entire VSI.06 | Rev. 4 | 1 July 2026 HERE

Driver Training Unit (DTU) Update.

In 2026 the DTU will shift to focus more on assessment only.

Since 2021 DTU has been running workshops for the Driver Awareness Facilitators (DAF's) with the aim to build skills and knowledge within the clubs.

For 2026 the intention is the DAF's will educate and Facilitate Awareness for members within their clubs, to prepare them before they attend the DTU assessments.
DAF's will need to verify their members have the skills and knowledge to complete the assessment, This will allow the DTU to assess more members.

For clubs that do not have a DAF we will try to link those clubs with clubs who have a driver awareness program and are willing to accept members of other clubs on their driver awareness events.

The following events are ALL OPEN on the website for booking
May 9th - Basic assessment - Wallaroo SF
July 4th - DAF Workshop – Woolongong
Sept 27th /28th Non Accredited Complex - Wallaroo SF

October 24th – DAF workshop – Lithgow

We also have some clubs that want to do an Assessment only club week end, this will be discussed with each club separately and will be dependent on available assessors.

Please Note:
You will find the link to the Driver Assessment Form HERE
The Daf's Workshop HERE

The system for attending assessment days is new. They may be teething problems. Please be patient and let us know what we can do to improve the system.
If something is not working please email office@4wdnow.com.au

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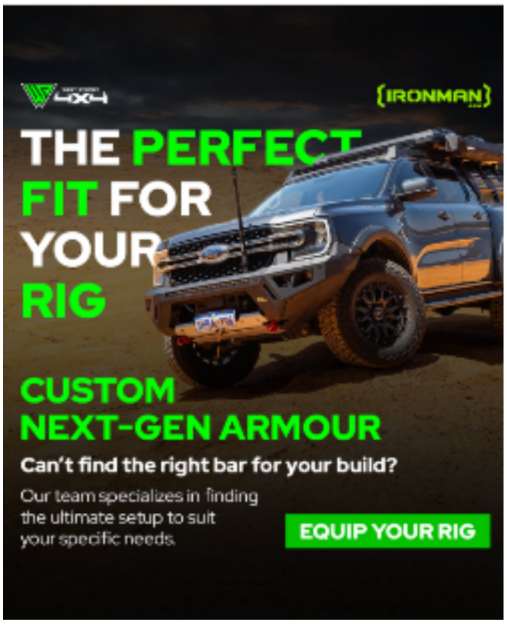
Looking for a venue for your next Club meeting?

West Sydney 4x4 have very generously offered their Lidcombe store for club meetings.
The store will hold up to 40 people and your club is welcome to set up a BBQ for your members in the car park.
Contact office@4wdnow.com.au if you are interested. Please do not contact the store directly.
If your club is small we can set you up with another club to do your meetings together so you can take advantage of this great offer.

NEWS FROM WEST SYDNEY 4X4 - HILUX

Take your HiLux to the top of the game with West Sydney 4x4. West Sydney 4x4 are the FIRST in Australia to receive the new HiLux Bullbar!

This bullbar range brings the kind of upgrade that changes the whole stance of your build - tougher, sharper and ready for more. Call us or enquire today to find out how you can get your hands on one. CONTACT NOW



NEWS FROM WEST SYDNEY 4X4 - NEXT GEN RANGER

If the bar doesn't fit, it's not the right bar. At West Sydney 4x4, we don't do off the shelf thinking, we build set ups around how you actually drive from touring rigs to full off-road builds. Our Next Gen Ranger Bullbars are primed and ready to take your adventures to the next level. With stock ready to go, enquire today to take your rig to the next level. CONTACT NOW

Compliance for historic and classic vehicles

Conditionally registered vehicles from five car clubs were recently inspected at Silverwater.

These inspections are part of series of compliance events directed at historic and classic vehicles, with more planned throughout 2026, explained Leigh Grant, Senior Manager – Vehicle Operations. “I want to thank vehicle owners and clubs that have cooperated in conducting this ongoing operation. We have seen some well maintained, safe and compliant vehicles, however there are some concerning vehicle safety issues arising from our inspections,” said Leigh.

“We remind clubs and owners of the importance of complying with Transport’s lawful directions regarding vehicle inspections. For the clubs and vehicle owners who have not complied, Transport will be exercising its powers."
Transport directed 85 owners to present their vehicles for inspection to assess vehicle safety and confirm eligibility for historic and classic registration.

Key outcomes included:

- 46 vehicles inspected
- 25 vehicle defect notices issued
- 16 vehicles identified with major defects, including six deemed unsafe to drive from the inspection site
- 19 vehicles deemed ineligible for the Historic or Classic Vehicle Scheme.
- Enforcement action is underway to cancel the registration of 39 vehicles that failed to comply with the inspection direction, including a vehicle registered to the responsible person of one club.

  Two club officials who are also Authorised Examiners within the Authorised Inspection Scheme (AIS) have been referred for action against their AIS accreditation. The Motor Vehicle Tradesperson Certificate of one person was expired and the Motor Vehicle Repairer Licence of the other was expired.

As the first line of compliance, recognised clubs play a vital role in the historic and classic vehicle scheme. It is essential that the integrity of the scheme is protected.

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.....

A big welcome to our newest members and introducing

Defenderfest 2026

When: October 2nd - 5th 2026
Location: Hervey Bay QLD.
Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you all there.
www.defendersofaustralia.club

Need a ZOOM meeting?

Do you need a zoom meeting for your club?

You are welcome to use the Association account.
Please email Maggie with date, start time and duration.
office@4wdnow.com

4WD NSW & ACT and its Driver Training Unit proudly supported by

ARB 4X4 ACCESSORIES

This newsletter is written using information provided by relevant parties.
If I write something that mentions "me or I" and there is no signature
after it then it is a message from me.
If you would like something to be added on behalf of your club
please email office@4wdnow.com.au
Anything can be included as long as it's club based and for the benefit of clubs.
The newsletter is monthly (about the first of each month) but we can do an
extra "special" if there is something that is important that we missed.
- Maggie Thomas.
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